

Kate Mark, Parent

I believe that the role of standardized testing scores in evaluating teacher performance should be drastically reduced. Standardized testing scores are not an accurate measure of teacher performance or of the quality of the education being provided in the classroom. Evaluating teachers based on this measure will focus classroom resources in a way that is harmful to children's education and will penalize teachers who work with lower performing populations that need them the most. Children are not standardized and neither are their needs in the classroom. Teachers should be evaluated based upon their ability to differentiate education and provide support for each individual student. They should be encouraged to teach to the whole child, not narrow their focus to one small aspect of a child's performance. I don't know a single parent who wouldn't be offended if their child was viewed as nothing but a test score. Let's not encourage this kind of thinking in our schools.